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in which Messrs. Williston, McGregor, Osborn and others will participate. Titles of papers should be sent to Dr. O. P. Hay, secretary, American Museum of Natural History, New York.

*THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS.*

THE twenty-third annual meeting of the American Society of Naturalists will be held at Philadelphia on Tuesday, December 27, and Wednesday, December 28. The following program is announced: Tuesday, 8:00 P.M., illustrated lecture by Professor Henry F. Osborn, 'Recent Discoveries of Extinct Animals in the Rocky Mountain Region and their Bearings on Present Problems of Evolution,' at the lecture hall of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Nineteenth and Race Streets; 9:00 P.M., smoker of the Affiliated Scientific Societies, University Club, Fifteenth and Walnut Streets. On Wednesday a business meeting will be held at 2 P.M. in the Laboratory of Physiology and Pathology at the University of Pennsylvania, and in the same place at 3 P.M. the annual discussion will take place. The topic, 'The Mutation Theory of Organic Evolution,' will be discussed from the following standpoints: Plant breeding, by Dr. D. T. MacDougal, of the New York Botanical Garden; animal breeding, by Professor W. E. Castle, of Harvard University; cytology, by Professor E. G. Conklin, of the University of Pennsylvania; paleontology, by Professor W. B. Scott, of Princeton University; anatomy, by Professor Thomas Dwight, of the Harvard Medical School; taxonomy, by Professor Liberty H. Bailey, of Cornell University; and ethology, by Dr. W. M. Wheeler, of the American Museum of Natural History. Each speaker is limited to fifteen minutes. At 6:45 a business meeting for the election of officers will be held at the Hotel Walton, while at 7:00 P.M. the dinner of the Naturalists, in which members of the affiliated societies may participate, will be held. At the dinner the president of the society, Professor E. L. Mark, of Harvard University, will give his address. Hotel headquarters of the society are to be at the Colonnade Hotel, Fifteenth and Chestnut Streets.

*SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.*

THE trustees of the Carnegie Institution will meet at Washington on December 13, when it is expected that a president will be elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. D. C. Gilman.

THE former students of Professor Charles E. Bessey who are connected with the Office of Vegetable Pathological and Physiological Investigations, Department of Agriculture, have had an enlarged copy of his photograph framed and presented to the office. The portrait, which had been covered with an American flag, was unveiled by Professor Bessey's son, Dr. E. A. Bessey. The picture was hung at a gathering of the office force on November 28. Miss Carrie Harrison presented the picture, and appropriate remarks were made by Mr. A. F. Woods, chief pathologist and physiologist, who spoke especially of Professor Bessey's work in promoting the establishment of the pathological and physiological work of the department and of his constant interest in its progress and welfare. Dr. H. J. Webber, physiologist in charge of plant breeding, spoke of the important part that Professor Bessey had taken in introducing laboratory methods of teaching botany in this country and of his great success as a teacher. Mr. C. L. Shear, pathologist, spoke briefly of his students, referring especially to those who are now holding important positions as professors of botany in various universities and colleges. All testified to the intimate and friendly relation which existed between Professor Bessey and his students and to their great admiration and affection for him.

The seventieth birthday of Dr. George H. Howison, Mills professor of philosophy in the University of California, was celebrated on November 29. A *Festschrift* has been issued by the university press containing contributions by his former pupils.

AT the last meeting of the Rumford Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences the following grants for research were made: To Professor R. W. Wood, of Johns Hopkins University, \$350, in aid of a research on the optical and physical properties of so-